

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05
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R 151830Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8464
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 3056

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR--
FOREIGN MINISTER AND SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 2841

1. A THREE-HOUR PRIVATE LUNCHEON ON JULY 14 PROVIDED
THE OCCASION FOR ME TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH AND SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS ROBERTO MENDOZA THE GENERAL ROLE AND IMPACT OF
HUMAN-RIGHTS MATTERS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND EL SALVADOR. TO ILLUSTRATE WHAT IS
HAPPENING TO EL SALVADOR'S IMAGE ABROAD, I ONCE
AGAIN DISPLAYED MY COLLECTION OF APPROXIMATELY THIRTY
PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ALL COMMENTING ADVERSELY ON THE STATE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN THIS COUNTRY. INCLUDED
WERE NEW YORK TIMES COLUMNS, WOLA REPORTS, AMNESTY
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INTERNATIONAL CASES, THE PRELIMINARY ANDERSON REPORT,
ETC.

2. IN THIS FIRST SERIOUS AND PROTRACTED DISCUSSION
WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, I REVIEWED FOR HIM THE
HISTORY OF THE SAN LORENZO DAM LOAN, THE MORE RECENT
IMPACT OF HUMAN-RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS UPON LOAN

APPLICATIONS PENDING AT THE WORLD BANK AND THE IDB,
THE GENESIS AND OUTCOME OF THE VISIT TO EL SALVADOR
BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES SALLY SHELTON AND
MARK SCHNEIDER, MY OWN RECENT DIALOGUE ON HUMAN-RIGHTS
MATTERS WITH OTHER CABINET MINISTERS, THE NET PLUS
OR MINUS OF THE LAW FOR DEFENSE OF PUBLIC ORDER,
THE POLARIZATION OF THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE,
GOES RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEFTWARD DRIFT AMONG THE YOUNG, OUR
OWN EFFORTS TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE AMONG CONTENDING FACTIONS,
AND THE MOUNTING TENSIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES OF THE PRESENT
MOMENT CHARACTERIZED AS IT IS BY OUTSTANDING KIDNAPPINGS AND A
GROWING PROPENSITY FOR VIOLENCE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER RODRIGUEZ PORTH RESPONDED
THOUGHTFULLY AND INTELLIGENTLY TO MY PRESENTATION,
POINTED OUT THE REAL RISKS FACING THE GOES WHATEVER
COURSE IT MIGHT ELECT, AND SAID THAT ALL THESE
MATTERS WOULD BEAR MUCH THOUGHT AND FUTURE
DISCUSSION.

4. AS A RELATED MATTER, FONMIN REVEALED THAT HE
HAD JUST COME FROM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHERE HE HAD
SUBMITTED FOR ITS CONSIDERATION AND RATIFICATION
THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PACT OF
SAN JOSE).

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